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AT THE OFFICE OF THE
Jeffersonian Republican.

Lay of the Anxious Debtor.

ADDRESSED TO HIS CONFIDING BUTCHER.

AIR—"Will you love me then as now?"

You have told me that you trust me!
And you prove the words you speak,
As you send the meat in daily,
And the book but once a week!
May I hope your kindly feeling
Nothing ever will estrange,
And this pleasant mode of dealing
Circumstances ne'er will change!
When you send a twelvemonth's bill in,
And to pay I don't know how,
When you hear I've not a shillin',
Will you trust me then as now!

Though a month may pass unclouded,
And you send what's ordered home,
Yet, as week on week advances,
Thoughts across your mind must come.
You will lose your old politeness,
And reluctant fill your tray,
Cheerful looks will lose their lightness
When you find I never pay.
When my debts have passed upon me,
And my tradesmen made a row,
Will the change find you unchanging—
Will you trust me then as now?—*Punch.*

THE HUMAN ERA.

BY PROF. SILLIMAN.

The following is from the twelfth lecture of Professor Silliman, at the Smithsonian Institute, Washington City—the general subject being Geology:—

The Human Era.—Man appears in the geological order at the top of the scale of the animal creation.

There are no human bones or works of the regular formations, nor do we find them until we reach the upper surface, or position very near to it.

The length of this lecture will make it necessary to omit many of the facts, and to give chiefly the propositions and conclusion.

Geology and the Scripture history are in perfect harmony as regards the order of succession of living beings, and in both, man appears later than any of the fossilized plants and animals. The large terrestrial animals, both herbivorous and carnivorous, roamed among the grand forests of the tertiary period before man was created, and their bones, occasionally, bear marks of a violent death or of combat.

Some of the animals, especially hyænas and bears, inhabited caverns.

The deluge recorded in the Scriptures was a miraculous event; and, although various physical causes might be assigned to account for the overflow of waters, it is not incumbent on geology to account for this miraculous catastrophe. If we are to understand the account literally, that the highest mountains under the heaven were covered, it will follow—taking the time into consideration—that the water rose at the rate of about one hundred and eighty feet a day, or seven and a half feet an hour, or forty-five feet in the time of the rise of a common tide, which is considerably less than the rise in the tides of the river Wye, in England, or the Bay of Fundy, in Nova Scotia.

The rush would have been considerable, and when it passed through narrow valleys and gorges, and over barriers, or down precipices, it would occasion furious currents and cataracts. If, as some suppose, the deluge rose only high enough to execute its commission, the effects would be proportionately less violent, but still very decided.

The effects of the deluge would not be forming, but destroying; the waters would lacerate the surface and transport all loose materials, and everything which the violence of the flood could tear up and move. Drift, stones, boulders, &c., would be borne along and deposited here and there at random, but no regular formation would be produced and no fossils.

The deluge, therefore, had no concern with the regular formations constituting the crust of the globe, nor with the fossils imbedded in them, which were wrapped up in the foaming strata, as the materials were brought about them, by sediment or crystalization. The universal dispersion of arranged and unconsolidated stones, gravel sand, clay, &c., (called drift)over the surface of the globe, would seem fairly referable to a general rush of turbulent waters. We do not, however, find in the drift any remains of man or of his works, and there have been many local deluges and much diluvial action while the continents and islands were emerging from the waves. Still, it may reasonably be admitted that a portien of the drift may have been moved and deposited by the deluge, and possibly some of the remains of the huge animals. The rhinoceros found in the upper part of a cavern, must have been brought in by the same rush of waters that moved the drift; the orifice by which they must have entered. The position of skeletons of whales among loose materials, far inland necessarily implies a pervading rush or overflow of waters.. Many of the gigantic quadrupeds appear this was the fact particularly with the to have been mired as modern cattle are; mastodon, while feeding in the swamps and morasses.

The idea formerly entertained that the old continents were sunk and the bottom of the ocean raised, at the time of the deluge, is disproved by many considerations.

No allusion is made in the narrative to such a catastrophe, and, had it happened, there would have been no propriety in giving the height of the mountains as a measure of the height of the waters, or the appearance of the tops of the mountains as a standard of the decline of the waters; neither reference would have had any meaning had the mountains been in the bottom of the sea, nor could the dove have "plucked off" an olive leaf from the submerged groves; nor could the human family have resorted immediately to agriculture and horticulture upon a surface covered with ocean mud and sand and marine deposits which it would have required many years to decompose into a fertile soil.

Human remains will be found fossil, whenever the sea shall give up its dead: they will be found imbedded along with the bones of animals, with coins, cannon and shot, anchors, and utensils, and whatever else may have been swallowed up by the sea, and which has resisted the corrosions of its waters. The object of the deluge was punitive and destructive, and this it accomplished: but there is no evidence that it produced any change in the crust of the earth.

The object in view in the production of the regular formation of the earth was quite different; it was evidently to prepare such a world as would be a fit residence for the human race, and the means employed were the great powers inherent in the earth as the agents of the Almighty, who works by means.

The primary dominion of fire produced the granite, the syenite, porphyry, the trap, and basalt, which form the basis of the planet, and afford some of the most important materials for architecture and engineering. The materials derived from these rocks, and others of similar origin, formed by their divided parts, the basis of the metamorphic rocks; those early slate strata which are intermediate between the igneous and the fossiliferous formations.

The fragmentary rocks are composed of ruins, not metamorphosed into other forms but retaining the figured picture, produced by the adhesion of the fragments either by simple cohesion or by means of a finer basis, or by infiltration. Vast strata were produced in this way, and appear now in the form of sandstone, puddingstone, breccia or conglomerate, as may be seen in many structures: e. g., the Smithsonian building, which is red sandstone, and the pillars of the Houses of Congress and the court-room in the Capitol, which are pudding-stone. The fossiliferous rocks, especially the calcareous, afford building stones of excellent quality, and marble of exquisite beauty, in which, when polished the fossils, often filled with white calcareous spar, shines out with great brilliancy from a dark basis.

The beds of coal have been formed from the most ancient terrestrial vegetation, evidently created for this purpose, and prevented from decaying, as vegetables do upon the present surface of the ground, by being covered by the sediment and sand and other materials which have formed the solid starts the coal measures; and this inestimable benefit to mankind has been secured by the wise and benevolent prescience and provision of the Creator.

Veins of metal have been produced in the rocks by geological laws; whether they were raised in vapor from below, deposited by fusion, or by galvanic secretion. From the solid veins of quartz or the vein stone, whatever it may be, they have been often detached, or rather the vein has been broken up, and thus the metal has become alluvial. This is particularly true of California, where the gold is found chiefly in this condition, although it is found also in the regular veins in the rock.

Salt, the great antiseptic of the ocean, was doubtless formed originally from its elements, sodium and chlorine. Potassium also, and calcium, and magnesium, metallic bases, whose compounds in the saline form with chlorine, iodine, bromine, and perhaps flourine, contribute to the saline character of sea water, are always present, more or less, along with cammon salt.

The original ocean must, therefore, of necesity, have been saline; with such elements there could have been no other result; and this state of things made it necessary that the earlist created beings, both vegetable and animal, should be marine. This accords exactly with the earlist fossilliferous rocks, those marine deposits of vast thickness below the coal.

It was impossible that there should be any fresh waters as long as there was no land elevated above the waves. The evaporated water rising to be condensed into rain would, of course, become again saline as it fell into the ocean.

But as soon as the mountain-tops and contiguous lands were elevated, then rills and brooks of fresh water would be produced on the surface to refresh the newly-created terrestial vegetation, and, percolating through the strata, they began to form reservoirs in the ground, and ever and anon, fountains and springs of water would rise from the earth, and, after washing away the salt which remained from the ancient submersion, permanent sources of fresh water would be supplied and since that era, they have never ceased.

The elevation of the land was necessary to place the mineral materials of the earth within the reach of man. A globe mathematically regular would have required the most painful and expensive boring and mining in order to discover, reach and raise the substances most useful to man. But now the sides of the hills and the mountains often disclose their trasures to the eye, and latteral galleries, mines, and quarries are made with facility among the solid strata, and the water runs off by natural declivity.

The elevation of the land was necessary to create hydraulic power. Had the globe been only a regular sphere there would have been neither rills, brooks, rivulets, or rivers; nor springs and fountains, nor artesian wells, nor moisture so near the surface as to nourish vegetation, and, of course, animal life. No wheels could revolve by falling water, except from trifling reservoirs, painfully elevated by man, and frequently renewed, as a miserable substitute for the magnsficent and powerful hydraulics established by the Creator.

The elevation of the land has produced all the variety of grand and beautiful scenery by which the earth is adorned.—A round world, without hill, or plain, or mountain, or valley, would have been tame and monotonous in the extreme.

Had the world been composed of only one kind of materials, for instance a world of granite alone, or of marble, or of iron, or even of gold, (so much desired,) who could have lived in it?

All the variety which God has given it is equally necessary to sublimity and beauty of scenery, as to utility in the arts and economy of human life.

The elevation of the land produced variety of climate. The highest mountains, even under the equator, show an arctic winter on their icy summits—a winter which never relents—and a tropical climate exits at their feet, while between these extremes are the climates of the temperate zones; and all the vegetable productions, above and below, are in perfect correspondence. Groups of snowy mountains, like Mount Blanee and the Alpine ranges, are perpetual sources of fertility to the countries below. Cloudless and sunny Lambardy, Piedmont and Tuscany maintain a splendid verdure and produce rich crops by the vast natural and artificial irrigation from the neighboring Alps, while in the old United States proper, we have no such reservoirs to regulate the flow of our rivers.

The elevation of the land, by exposing the tops of the hills and mountains to disintegration and washing down, affords our clays, gravel, sand, and soils; and all these effects depend upon those powers, inherent in the earth, the grand dynamics of fire and water, by which the elevation is accomplished, if modes, the discussion of which would involve a range of remarks inconsistent with the brievity of these abstracts.

The geology of the United States is rich and various, and affords all the materials for the arts, for agriculture, for commerce, and domestic comfort.

The geological features of the country have a great influence on the employments and character of the inhabitants, as well as on the productions of the respective sections North, South, East, and West, as was in the lecture illustrated by facts.

But in the case of geology there is not even a literal discrepancy. On the contrary, all the geological formations correspond in the order of time, and as far as they are described in the scriptures, with the nature of the deposits, especially in the succession of created beings endowed with life, and man in both systems crowns the whole.

The only change required is extension of time, so as to afford enough to allow the events to happen by natural laws, established by the Creator, expressive of his will, which is thus distinctly recorded in the earth itself. 'The beginning' is not limited in time, and may extend as far back as the case may reqire; thus providing for all the early formations.

The periods called days are not necessarily such as we now denote by that word. There could be no regulation and division of time, as we now have it, until the sun was set to rule the day.—Morning and evening may be, before that time, figurative expressions, denoting merely beginning and ending, as we say the morning and evening of life. The word day is used, in this short narrative, in all the senses in which it is ever employed in language; and significantly in the recapitulation or summary, in the beginning of the second chapter, day is used, for the whole period of the creation, and in the same sense in various parts of the scriptures.

The periods required for all the amazing series of events recorded in the earth, are necessarily long; and if time was measured by natural days in the fifth and sixth periods, during the creation and sepulture of innumerable races of marine and terrestrial animals, there must have been a repetition of very many of those days to make out a long epoch, which might as well be regarded at once as a period of sufficient length for the work.

The Sabbath stands by itself after the work is finished, a moral institution, having no necessary connexion with the preceding physical events. By it man is every week reminded of his Maker and his destination, and although neither morning nor evening are in Genesis named in connexion with the Sabbath, it has no doubt always been of the same length as now, and does not belong to the geological epochs.

If this view is not acceptable, it is still indispensable that in some way the time was very long, *and no other person can be admitted as qualified to judge in the case.* There is reason to believe that man has been in the world more than six thousand years, and the antiquity of the planet refers to ages before man was created, the allusion in the commandments and in other parts of the scriptures to the six days, would, of course, be made in conformity with the language adopted in the narrative, which, being for the mass of mankind, was necessarily a popular history, although of divine origin; and the historian adopted a division of time, that was in general use, although as half the time, at least, was inconsistent with astronomical laws. Extension of the time to such a length as to cover the events by the operation of physical laws removes every difficulty, interferes with no doctrine of religion, and prepares us to exclaim with our divine poets,

These are thy glorious works, Parent of Good:
Almighty! thine this universal frame,
Thus wondrous fair: Thyself how wobdrous, then,
Unspeakable! who sits above the heavens,
To us invisible, or dimly seen in these thy lower works,
Yet these declare thy goodness beyond thought,
And power divine.—Milton.

Thou givest its lustre to an insect's wing,
Ana wheel'st thy throne upon the rolling worlds.
From thee is all that cheers the life of man,
His high endeavor and his glad success—
His power to suffer and his will to serve:
But oh! thou bounteous Giver of all good,
Thou art of all thy gifts thyself the crown,
Give what thou canst; without thee we are poor—
And with the rich, take what thou wilt away—Cowper.

The Poison of Tobacco.

We had an opportunity on Sunday of witnessing a part of the effect of this powerful narcotic and poison. A lady in 8th street, who had been using a decoction of tobacco for killing insects upon some plants, left it exposed where a child found and drank of it, certainly not more than one swallow. The little sufferer upon this went to sleep in her nurse's arms, & remained in a sound slumber two hours. It is proper to observe that no one knew what she had been tasting, until she awaked. Then she was at first pale, then flushed, and in a few moments after rising had no command whatever of her nerves and muscles. Her hands and arms trembled, and she was unable even so to command her lips, as to articulate a syllable. In her fright, the mother, who now understood the cause of the chid's illness, and sufficient presence of mind left to administer an active emetic, while she sent for assistance—and in an hour the little sufferer had entirely recovered from the effects of the poison.

From the Zanesville (O.) Aurora.

American Free Schools.

If there is anything, which is peculiarly the pride and glory of American citizens, aside from their political freedom, it is their *Common Free Schools.* In Massachusetts, New York, Ohio, Indiana and many other States, their organizaiion and practical working, are more or less perfected, and receive very general admiration and support at the hands of their citizens at large. We say *very general, because not universal.* The Bible known as King James' translation, without note or comment, is a very general text book, though not universally so. In our State, their origin was coeval with her territorial formation as well as erection into a state. For the celebrated ordinance passed by Congress, July, 1787, organizing the northwest territory, affirms: 'that religion, morality and knowledge, being necessary to good government, and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education, shall forever be encouraged.' And the same sentiments, in nearly the same language, were retained in the late Constitution of our State; and in the Bill of Rights forming part of the new Constitution, (Sec. 7) words very similar are used, to assert the same principle. We have, for these reasons, watched with no little anxiety, the effect of the resistance offered in certain places, first to the use of the Bible as a text book, and finally to the whole common school system, by Roman Catholic clergy. This has been particularly the case in New York, Philadelphia, Cincinnati and Detroit, though to some extent it is co-existent with the spread of the Roman Catholic religion. We had, as it now seems, vainly hoped that this resistance would be short-lived, and that sooner or later, we could all give Common Free Schools, a cordial, hearty, united, and generous support.

We go for the perpetual continuance of the largest possible liberty in matters of religious belief. Nor would we offer any violations of conscience.

But we do think that the Roman Catholic clergy, are laboring under mistaken notions, in their opposition to Common Schools in the United States. Mistaken, we say, in regard to the ultimate results to be apprehended from a continuance in their present hostile attitude to FREE SCHOOLS in FREE AMERICA. Our reasons for thinking they are mistaken, are as follows:

1st. Their church acknowledges a foreign head, who is temporal sovereign over the States of the church in Italy.

2nd. Their acknowledged spiritual head in the old world, confers eclesiastical titles and privileges on their teachers in their churches in the U. States—whose claims to spiritual dominion, harmonize, but imperfectly, with the spirit of our free institutions.

3d. The Catholic clergy cannot bring the great mass of their adherents to oppose our Common School system. This is evinced, from the fact, that they failed in arraying them against the new Constitution, which they undoubtedly attempted. Still more recently, a petition was got up in Cincinnati, headed by Archbishop Purcell, and signed by eight hundred others, and presented to our Legislature on the 9th of March, ult., asking that a portion of Common Schooi Fund be set apart for the maintenance of Catholic Schools. This, though they knew perfectly well, that the new Constitution of the State expressly declares, that 'no religious or other sect, shall have any exclusive right to, or control *any part of the Common School Fund of this State.*'—And, very recently, in the city of Detroit, they attempted to seize upon the schools in the election of officers, and were signally defeated.

4th. In countries where the Catholic religion is predominant, no attention is paid, by the church or government, to the education of the massess. These being facts in the case, opposition to existing institutions, recognized in our State Constitution, and encouraged and fostered by existing laws, opposition, we say, may, with some show of reason, and is actually by many persons construed into foreign interference with our domestic *affairs*:

Now, there is nothing, we apprehend, which grates so harshly on American ears, as this foreign *interference*, and we are painfully under the apprehension, that a continued hostility to Common Free Schools or other institutions, peculiarly American, on the part of the Catholic clergy, will lead to the most unpleasant consequences. It arrays one portion of our fellow citizens against another, and fosters and encourages the worst possible feeling of enmity to each other.

We do not wish to dictate to any one, but it is among the glories of American liberty, that all may speak out boldly and fearlessly, their thoughts on all public matters. We could wish, however, that our Catholic clergy would be satisfied with having their people placed on the same footing with all others, instead of demanding public money to be set apart, to maintain schools in which their peculiar religious faith may, or may not be taught. This would be unequal, and we hazard but little in saying, will never be the case. It is the privilege of all, if they think they can do better, to send their children or wards to other than public schools. But the histary of the past teaches us, that if the Government does not provide means of education for all, but few will be educated. And while the government leaves all religious teaching entirely out of the system, it surely places all christian denominations on an equal footing; and with this our people are, for the most part satisfied. We wish it were so *univcisally.*

We urge then, our Catholic baethern to pause and reflect. Consider the results which may be brought about, by your present attitude to Public Schools in this and other States. In the mutations of public opinion in America, time may bring about the result you desire; which, if we can rightly get at it, is an entire abolition of government education for the masses.

We cannot close without urging the friends of popular education to pursue a moderate, yet firm and consistent course, in sustaining our Common Free Schools; taking care not to give any just cause of offence to any religious sect or denomination; for in this way opposition will be disarmed. Remember that religious belief is not tolerated, but held as an *indefeasible right* by all. A Musselman or Budhist has the same rights as an Episcopalian or Methodist. In this way, can we throw around our schools a bulwark, which will be impregnable to every assault, now and hereafter.

Agricultural.

From the Germantown Telegraph.

The Best Corn.

Mr. Editor:—I would say that so far as my knowledge extends, a mixture of the Oregon and Gourd-seed yields a better crop than any other kind I ever saw tried. The gourd-seed is of a hardish nature and weighs heavily, while the Oregon is softer and lighter, but measuring more than enough over the other varieties, to make up the deficiencies in weight. By making a mixture of those two, we get a kind about half way between them, which I think is much superior to either kind alone. It has been four years since I adopted the above plan, and I fully believe I can raise five bushels more to the acre than ever I could of the gourd-seed alone. If some of your readers would give it a trial, I think they would be able to communicate to you, accounts of having raised larger crops of corn than they can at present.

I would also say a little respecting early plowing for corn. The later the ground is left before broken up the better, as by so doing we get rid of much of the grass, which would otherwise be in the corn, were we to plow it earlier in the spring, or in the fall previous. One of my neighbors, a few years since, plowed up his sod in the fall, and after running over it with a square harrow, he rolled it, and left it that, until spring, when he put double the work on it that the neighbors did on their's which was plowed later in the spring, before he got it in order to plant his corn.

This corn required double the amount of labor to tend it also as the others. It was the most grassy piece of corn I ever saw; at one time it looked as if it would mowe a good swarth by harvest time if left alone. I never could see any difference between the injury done by the worm on this piece, than ony other pieces around it; I therefore have come to the conclusion that grass does not prevent the worm from injuring the corn, at least, not as much as *it* does injury to it. When husking time came the yield was not as good as had been anticipated, and I believe the experiment has fully satisfied him as to fall or early spring plowing, as I have never heard of his giving it a second trial.

AGRICULTURIST.